Farmsubsidy 2023

Climate Arena Conference Vienna (https://climatearena2023vienna.sched.com/event/1TmMH/fraud-and-data-investigating-eu-farm-subsidy-billions)

Url to this pad: https://pad.investigativedata.org/s/6BMytXB0c
(https://pad.investigativedata.org/s/6BMytXB0c)

Collaborative conference pad: https://pad.okfn.de/p/farmsubsidy-vienna2023
(https://pad.okfn.de/p/farmsubsidy-vienna2023)

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What

Farm subsidies are EU payments to public authorities, companies and farmers who are active in the agricultural sector and/or contribute to its maintenance. Subsidies are financed by taxpayers' money, primarily through the EU, but the Member States also contribute financially in a direct way. Subsidies are part of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which came into force in 1962.

Why

The budget for the CAP is the largest item in the EU budget. Between 2014 and 2020, it was around 38 percent of total expenditure, a total of 408.31 billion euros. For the period 2021 to 2027, 387 billion euros are earmarked, 31 percent of the total budget.

The data source

The member states publish the most recent data (last two years) on their national pages, in various different formats. Sometimes a nice excel (or even csv!) export, sometimes just a weird search platform with a captcha in front of it.

The EU publishes an overview for the national data portals but not even this is 100% reliable: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/financing-cap/beneficiaries_en (https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/financing-cap/beneficiaries_en)

Fixed Malta url: https://agricultureservices.gov.mt/en/arpa/Pages/PaymentSearch/EAFRDPayments.aspx (https://agricultureservices.gov.mt/en/arpa/Pages/PaymentSearch/EAFRDPayments.aspx)

What we do

- Cleaning and deduplication (conservative, not too bad)

- Attempt to clean & dedupe measurements (bad)
- Currency conversion for non EUR amounts (not too bad)
- Geocoding for EU NUTS regions (not sure if bad)
- **Make the whole thing searchable and comparable in 1 platform**

Full dataset

We maintain an archive of the data since 2014. To get access, contact farmsubsidy@okfn.de (mailto:farmsubsidy@okfn.de) – Same for raw data (csv)

Resources

farmsubsidy.org (http://farmsubsidy.org)

The aim of farmsubsidy.org (http://farmsubsidy.org) is to obtain detailed data relating to payments and recipients of farm subsidies in every EU member state and make this data available in a way that is useful to European citizens.

Brainstorming

- Dataharvest 2022: https://pad.okfn.de/p/dataharvesthackday2022 (https://pad.okfn.de/p/dataharvesthackday2022)
- Dataharvest 2023: https://pad.okfn.de/p/farmsubsidy2023 (https://pad.okfn.de/p/farmsubsidy2023)

Stories

https://www.platform-investico.nl/artikel/boeren-zonder-grenzen/ (https://www.platform-investico.nl/artikel/boeren-zonder-grenzen/)

https://farmsubsidy.org/stories (https://farmsubsidy.org/stories)

Data leads

Analysis

- Regional distribution / trends (GINI coefficient (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gini_coefficient))
- Distribution / trends for specific Measurements (https://farmsubsidy.org/schemes)

Beneficiaries

- What kind of beneficiaries get which amount (Person, Company, Public)?
- Cross-reference:
  - PEPs (political exposed persons)
  - Lobby registries
  - Company registries

Data tools

The data is available in the followthemoney (https://followthemoney.tech) format, which allows to use a wide range of data engineering tools for this kind of data, especially Aleph (https://docs.alephdata.org)

Plus, the FtM format allows easy matching with other datasets:

Other datasets (FtM)

- Some EU datasets: https://investigraph.eu (https://investigraph.eu)
- PEPs (worldwide): https://www.opensanctions.org/pep/ (https://www.opensanctions.org/pep/)
- Some company registries: https://www.opensanctions.org/kyb/ (https://www.opensanctions.org/kyb/)

Aleph instance to search & cross-match these datasets: https://aleph.investigativedata.org (https://aleph.investigativedata.org)

Write to hi@investigativedata.org (mailto:hi@investigativedata.org) to request access :)

Other databases

- Legal Entity Identifier database: https://www.gleif.org/ (https://www.gleif.org/)
- Beneficial ownership: https://register.openownership.org (https://register.openownership.org)

Open Source

The Farmsubsidy Stack

- Scraper repo: https://github.com/openspending/farmsubsidy-scrapers (https://github.com/openspending/farmsubsidy-scrapers)
- Cleaning pipeline, store & api: https://github.com/okfde/farmsubsidy-store (https://github.com/okfde/farmsubsidy-store)
- Frontend app: https://github.com/simonwoerpel/farmsubsidy.org-next (https://github.com/simonwoerpel/farmsubsidy.org-next)

FollowTheMoney tools

- Nomenklatura (TUI dedupe): https://github.com/opensanctions/nomenklatura (https://github.com/opensanctions/nomenklatura)
- Batch geocoding: https://github.com/investigativedata/ftm-geocode (https://github.com/investigativedata/ftm-geocode)

Credits

Farmsubsidy.org (http://Farmsubsidy.org) is run by FragDenStaat, the central contact for all questions relating to freedom of information in Germany.

The data and platform is based on the awesome work from this incomplete list of contributors:

- Niels Mulvad
- Kjeld Hansen
- Brigitte Alfter
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- Stefan Wehrmeyer
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- Simon Wörpel
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- Vera Deleja-Hotko
- Daniel Drepper
- Holger Drewes
- cyberbikepunk
- Juan Elosua
- Friedrich Lindenberg